

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
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Moffett Field, CA 94035-1000



May 6, 2004

Reply to Attn of:

DL: 200-12

TO: Distribution

FROM: DL/Chief Counsel

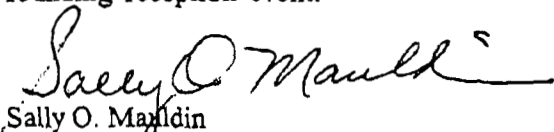
SUBJECT: Blanket Determination Regarding Attendance at the Reception Celebrating the
National Center for Space Biological Technologies (NCSBT)

On May 10, 2004, Stanford University will host a reception celebrating of the founding of the National Center for Space Biological Technologies (NCSBT), a new cooperative agreement between NASA and Stanford University. The reception will be held at the Stanford Faculty Club, with drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and formal remarks by several speakers. The technical mission of the NCSBT is to conduct and promote basic and applied R&D in biological technologies that are important to NASA's current and future activities, with spin-off opportunities for medical and biological analytical and monitoring systems.

The NCSBT founding reception will be widely attended by approximately 75 individuals from high-tech companies, academia, and the U.S. Government (including NASA Headquarters and several NASA Field Installations). This gathering is intended to provide an opportunity for those in the Federal Government, academia, and industry that have an interest in the development of biological technologies, and in particular the NCSBT, to exchange relevant information and ideas. Attendees include individuals involved in NASA biological research projects, and with whom NASA personnel will be involved in the future implementation of its biological research goals.

Because of NASA's interest in meeting with industry and academia regarding NASA's goal to develop biological technologies that are particularly relevant to its exploration vision and mission, attendance by NASA personnel and their spouses or guests is in the interests of the Government. In accordance with C.F.R. § 2635.204(g) and 14 C.F.R. §1207.103, Designation of Responsible Officials, I conclude that the interest of NASA ARC in having its employees attend this event outweighs any concern that such free attendance (estimated value to be between \$10 and \$15) may, or may appear to, improperly influence those employees in the performance of their official duties.

Accordingly, NASA personnel may participate in, and accept free attendance at, the NCSBT founding reception event.


Sally O. Mauldin